

Ask the Chief of the Anna Police: A weekly column allowing readers access to useful information about law enforcement issues in the Anna area.

This column is the personal opinion of Kenny Jenks and is based on his 30+ years of policing experience. It is not necessarily the official opinion of the City of Anna or the Anna Police Department and is not legal advice. If you wish to Email, include your name and address in the correspondence. Your information will be edited before sending it to print.

Hello Readers,

I receive between 75-100 Emails each week from persons who would like to converse about the activities of the police in Anna and surrounding areas. I can't respond to or print all of them, but I do read them!

Happy Summer Readers! Do you know where your kids are and what they are doing?

***Q:** John from The Falls writes: This spring and early summer have been awful weather wise. Can you please tell me how I sign up for the weather service I heard about from my neighbor? I appreciate you letting me know. Chief, tell your guys to keep doing what they are doing!*

Thank you John,

Weather here has certainly been unpredictable, but I am thankful that we did not experience the same storms as Joplin or Tuscaloosa. Regarding the City's weather warning system, to sign up, go to the City's Web Site "[annatexas.gov](http://annatexas.gov)" and on the home page on the left, click on the Code Red link. That will take you to another site where you can sign up for the level of warnings that you choose. The NOAA web-site offered the following information on weather events:

**Take note of the following regarding tornadoes:**

- They may strike quickly, with little or no warning.
- They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.
- The average tornado moves southwest to northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction.
- The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 MPH, but may vary from stationary to 70 MPH.

**If severe weather is in the forecast:**

- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or to commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information.
- Look for approaching storms with the following danger signs: dark, often greenish sky; large hail; a large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating); loud roar, similar to a freight train and if you see approaching

storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

- If you are under a tornado WARNING, seek shelter immediately!
  - **If you are in a structure** (residence, small building, school, etc.), go to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck. Do not open windows.
  - **If you are in a vehicle, trailer, or mobile home, the experts say:** Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes. THE CITY DOES NOT OFFER A STORM SHELTER! Make your plans for where you will go before you are confronted with this situation.
  - **Outside with no shelter:** Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding. Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
  - Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
  - Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes the most fatalities and injuries.
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